

Message Text

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67

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 IO-10 /096 W

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R 151719Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4446

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 6419

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IN

SUBJECT: ICTFU'S GENERAL SECRETARY KERSTEN'S MEETING WITH MRS.

GANDHI IN NEW DELHI

A. NEW DELHI'S A-9086 AND B. JAKARTA 8483 NOTAL

1. ICTFU ASSISTANT SECGEN JOHN VANDERVECKEN GAVE US AND BRITISH LABATTS FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF ICTFU GENERAL SECRETARY OTTO KERSTENS MEETING WITH MRS.GANDHI. HE SAID KERSTEN HAD 50 MINUTE "PRIVATE" MEETING WITH MRS. GANDHI. ONLY OTHER PERSON PRESENT WAS HER NOTE TAKER. VANDERVECKEN SAID THAT KERSTEN TOLD HIM FOLLOWING WAS ESSENCE OF MEETING: KERSTEN MADE APPEAL ON BEHALF OF ICTFU AND SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL AS NOTED REF B, FOR PRESERVATION OF DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES IN INDIA. MRS. GANDHI REPLIED THAT EVERYTHING DONE TO DATE HAS BEEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONSTITUTIONAL EMERGENCY POWERS AND WAS REQUIRED TO RETURN COUNTRY TO STATE OF
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"LAW AND ORDER". SHE WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF FOREIGN PRESS WHICH SHE SAID HAD IGNORED POLITICAL VIOLENCE WHICH HAD PRECEDED

STATE OF EMERGENCY AND THEN HAD CRITICIZED HER ACTIONS. SHE ADDED THAT SO FAR PEOPLE ARRESTED WERE ONLY MEMBERS OF "LUNATIC FRINGE OF LEFT AND RIGHT".

2. VANDERVECKEN SAID THAT IN VIEW OF PRIVATE NATURE OF MEETING, THERE WOULD BE NO PRESS RELEASE ON PART OF ICTFU AND IT WOULD HOLD OFF CRITICIZING MRS. GANDHI'S GOVERNMENT FOR TIME BEING FOR FOLLOWING REASONS: (A) ICTFU HAS NO EVIDENCE THAT ANY TRADE UNIONISTS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED; (B) ANY ICTFU PUBLIC CRITICISM WOULD EMBARRASS ITS INDIAN AFFILIATES, PARTICULARLY INTUC.

HE SAID THAT ORGANIZATION IF PUSHED TO WALL WOULD DIS-AFFILIATE FROM ICTFU RATHER THAN BREAK WITH MRS. GANDHI. HE SAID ICTFU UNDERSTANDS THIS POSITION SINCE BREAK WITH GANDHI GOVERNMENT WOULD LEAVE FIELD OPEN TO COMMUNIST AITUC.FIRESTONE

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